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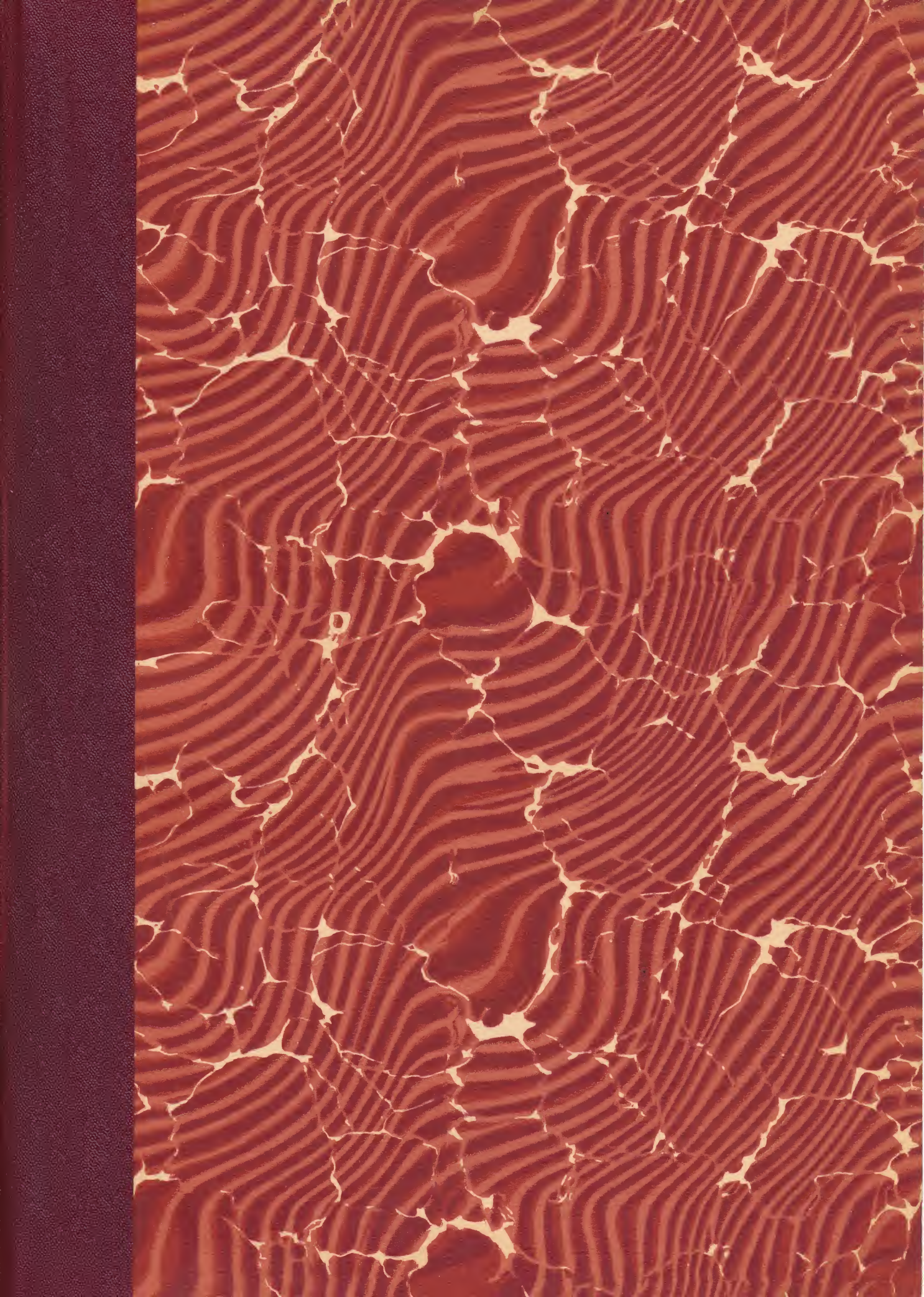
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# HISTORICAL DIRECTORY



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HISTORY OF  
RICHLAND VILLAGE  
AND TOWNSHIP

BY

Helen Telfer  
Richland Michigan

76-17841







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Directory of Kalamazoo County - 1870

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### PHYSICAL FEATURES

Richland township is on the north border of Kalamazoo County, east of the center. It was surveyed in 1826 by John Mullett of Detroit. At that time it formed a part of Brady and Arcadia townships. Richland township began a separate existence early in April, 1833, in accordance with an act of the Legislative Council approved June 29, 1832. At this time Richland township also included Ross, Comstock, and Charleston townships. Comstock, including Charleston, was set off in 1834; Ross in 1839.

In the United States survey it is listed as township number 1 south, range number 10, west.

Gull Prairie includes portions of sections 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, and 27, making a total of 2800 acres. In the southwest corner of sections 11 and 14 was a grove of beech and maples. The remainder of the township was mostly oak, not very dense.

"The soil is very productive and all products common to this latitude are here matured in the greatest abundance and perfection."

Water courses are unimportant, but there are





numerous lakes including Gull, Grassy, Miller, Long, Jackson, Crosby, Etter, Brown; Upper, Lower, and Middle (Three Lakes).

"Gull Lake, the largest body of water in the county, was named by surveyors and early settlers from the fact that sea gulls were frequently seen skimming its surface. It is a beautiful sheet of water, four miles in length, with an average width of one mile, and embracing large portions of sections 1 and 12; includes an island of about 20 acres." 2

1. History of Kalamazoo County - 1880 - P. 457
2. History of Kalamazoo County - 1880 - P. 457





## PIONEERS AND FIRST SETTLERS

In May, 1830, Colonel Isaac Barnes and David G. Dillie, with their families, arrived from Medina, Ohio. Mr. Barnes' family consisted of his wife, sons, George, Carlos, Lester, and Lucius, and daughters, Harriet and Julia.

They first built a log cabin near a spring half a mile east of the farm later owned by Clarence Harvey. Mr. Dillie settled on a farm later known as the Boyles' farm. The lands were not yet in market and they held their claims by right of pre-emption. After remaining two or three seasons, Mr. Dillie removed to Kalamazoo township.

In February, 1832, Mr. Barnes purchased the northwest 40 acres of section 14, later owned by Horace Peck, and now by John Hogg. Here he erected a log house, platted a village by the name of Geloster and became the first postmaster.

He was one of the first justices of the peace elected in Arcadia township. In 1832, he was appointed first judge of probate in Kalamazoo county. During the Blackhawk War he was commissioned lieutenant colonel of Kalamazoo County battalion and with it proceeded as far as Niles. He was elected first supervisor of Richland in 1833 and re-elected





in 1834. He held the office of postmaster until 1841, when he moved to Allegan.

Colonel Barnes was soon joined at Geloster by John B. Barnes and family from Hudson, Ohio; Seldon Norton and family from Aurora, Ohio; (Seldon, Jr., who was born in October, 1830, was the first white child born in the settlement); and Orville Barnes.

In June, 1830, William Giddings with a family of twelve or thirteen arrived from Connecticut. William Giddings died of consumption in January 1831, and was the first death in the settlement.

In 1872, Marsh Giddings sent a letter to the Kalamazoo Gazette to correct any misunderstanding as to the first settlement in Richland. It contains considerable about this period. In part it reads:

"My father, William Giddings, with his family of twelve sons and daughters, arrived in Detroit, on his way to Gull Prairie, on the 10th day of May, 1830, and left there ten days after for Beardsley's Prairie in Cass County, and on what was then called the Chicago trail, under the advice of General Cass, who gave him letters to the late Major Abram Edwards, then residing at the latter prairie, who would assist him in obtaining some good farm lands.





Before arriving there, the best lands in that vicinity had been selected, and in a few days my father, with a part of the family, went on to Gull Prairie, arriving there late in June. However, before taking the family, he and my oldest brother had been up to the prairie and had selected 8 lots on its western side, but while absent after the family, the Seminary Land Commissioners came on and located the lands they had selected, and forced him to take a smaller quantity on the east side.

"I remained with my mother and part of the family in Cass County until August, when, on board of an ox team, with four yokes of oxen, and with A. S. Parker, Esq., and my older brother, we started for my father's place, and one day of our journey we made 36 miles and camped at night near the house of Enoch Harris, on Dry Prairie. Not a very slow coach after all for an ox-team on an Indian trail.

"Arriving at Gull Prairie, I found about 40 families of Indians settled on the southeast edge of the prairie, who had not yet abandoned their ancient homes, and these families mostly remained until after the Blackhawk War, and were of considerable service in supplying venison to the early settlers.





"When my father's family arrived at the prairie, there had already preceded him and settled there Col. Isaac Barnes and family, Seldon Norton and family, John Barnes and family, Orville Barnes and family, and during the summer came Hazael Hoag and family, Daniel A. Plummer, A. S. Parker, John F. Gilkey, and either Cornelius Northrop or some of his family. . . . About the 1st of January, John F. Gilkey went to Young's Prairie after my oldest brother, who was teaching school at that place, and got him home just in time to attend the funeral of my father, who died on the 8th of January, 1831.

"I can give the names of not less than 40 persons who settled on Gull Prairie in 1830. Mr. E. P. Mills had never seen Gull Prairie in January 1831, the time he said he went to White Pigeon to mill, while the people at home fed on bran, but he may have been there in January, 1832. I well remember the events of those days, and have the written data. I was a sort of scout and runner-boy to go for the physicians, Dr. E. Brown of Big Prairie Ronde, and Dr. Abbott of Kalamazoo, and to purchase grain at White Pigeon Prairie and in Cass County, get it ground at Sage's Mill in Indiana, and return the grists to Gull Prairie, and for some years I





knew personally nearly every person within 25 miles of home, and the events and dates are as well known to me as those of the last 10 years. It was in 1831 that Deacon S. Mills and family and Deacon Samuel Brown and many others came to the settlement.<sup>3</sup>

Among other settlers who came during the year 1830 were James Sr., and Dr. James Porter, Jr., Rev. William Jones, Mumford Eldred, Jr., Levi S. White, and Samuel Woodruff. Some of them did not winter here, but after locating their claims went back east and returned to Gull Prairie in a year or so.

The accessions during the spring and summer of 1831 were numerous. The lands were first offered for sale in June, 1831. By January, 1832, several thousand acres had been entered, including to:-

Samuel Boyles, Cass Co., Mich.,  
 Isaac Briggs, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire,  
 Philip Gray, Newport, R. I.,  
 Philip Corey and family,  
 Benjamin Cumming and Son, Benjamin,  
 Samuel Brown and sons, Dauphin, Samuel T.,  
 Joseph, Russell, and Charles from  
 Hampden Co., Mass.,  
 William Logan,  
 Jonathan Russell,  
 Simeon Mills and family;

Also in 1831 -

Deacon Mills erected the first framed





dwelling in Kalamazoo County.

Mumford Eldred, Jr., was married to Miss Phoebe Hoag, May 22, 1831, by Rev. William Jones. It was the second marriage in the county.

October 27, 1831, Col. Isaac Barnes, as justice of the peace of Arcadia township, presided at the second marriage of the township, his son, Carlos, to Miss Louisa Giddings.

Rev. William Jones taught the first school in his own home during the winter of 1831-1832.

#### Events of the Year 1832

Among the settlers of 1832:

Tillotson Barnes, brother of Col. Barnes, who built the saw mill at Yorkville in 1833, and the grist mill one year later:

David H. Daniel, Massachusetts, who brought in for Samuel Brown the first one-horse wagon;

William H. Gilkey, brother of John E.;

Asa and Loyal H. Jones, the former of whom built an early saw mill on the outlet of Long Lake;

Henry Little, later moved to Kalamazoo;

Augustus, Timothy, Elihu, Sylvester, and Willard Mills;

Edwin Mason;





Joseph Miller, lawyer from Massachusetts;

George M. Murray;

Rockwell May, Berkshire Co., Mass.;

Dr. Henry White, first physician;

Rev. Levi White and family, Mass.

"The year, 1832, was to the inhabitants of Gull Prairie an eminently busy one, in respect to population, schools, and general progress. Breaking teams of from six to ten yokes of oxen, hitched to strong plows, were seen in different directions, turning over virgin soil."<sup>4</sup>

The village of Geloster was platted, a post office established, and a post route extending from Jacksonburg (now Jackson) via Gull Prairie to Prairie Ronde. The completion of a grist mill in Comstock caused great rejoicing, as previously there was no mill nearer than White Pigeon, 50 miles away.

During the summer occurred the Blackhawk War.

#### The Year 1833

Permanent settlers were: Myron and Mitchell Kinsdill from Chittenden Co., Vermont, George Wingert, George Torrey, Thomas Stancliff, A. H. Stone, William A. Ward, Josiah Buell.

The first election was held in the new township





of Richland.

Timothy Mills built the first hotel.

A church building was erected.

The Legislative Council passed an act authorizing Caleb Eldred, Samuel Brown, Asa Jones, Samuel Woodruff, and John F. Gilkey to establish the Richland Academy, naming them as trustees thereof with power to hold property not to exceed \$20,000.

The first Fourth of July celebration was held.

The village of Richland was platted by Willard and Sylvester Mills, upon lands situated on SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 23, where they sold the first goods and kept the first store in the same year.

Gull Prairie was at this time the most populous and important settlement in Kalamazoo County, for we find that of 32 grand and petit jurors summoned at the November term, 12 were residents of Richland: Philip Gray, John F. Gilkey, Daniel A. Plummer, Simeon Mills, David H. Daniels, Samuel F. Brown, Willard Mills, Samuel Brown, Samuel Woodruff, Levi S. White, Cornelius Northrop, and Loyal H. Jones.

From 1833 to 1839 the increase of population and material wealth was marked. In 1839, Ross was set off, leaving 81 resident tax payers in Richland township.





Included among the settlers who came prior to 1839 were: Merritt and Marvin Barrett, D. D., Brockway, John D. Bachelder (with Mumford Eldred, Jr., opened the first store in the present village of Richland in 1832), Rev. Mason Knappen, Ira Peake, Ira Hoyt, Theodore S. Hoyt, Hugh Kirkland, Henry Hicks, Charles Parker, Samuel Whitlock, John Walker, Seymour Hoyt, Hezekiah Doolittle, Asa Turner, H. P. Hoyt, Francis Holden, Daniel Jackson, and William Stone.

The history of Richland township would be incomplete without mention of the five deacons of Gull Prairie who settled there in 1830-1831. "These deacons were all men of strength, character, and good influence. They were all leading men in the church and in business, nor did they ever dishonor their profession. Sometimes they have been referred to reproachfully, but only by those who did not know their worth, nor understand what their influence had done in favor of good order, morality, intelligence, and the material prosperity of the people. Why is it that the liquor traffic, horse-racing, and gambling never gained an abiding place here? The influence of such men as these deacons. Why is it that prosperity has been held firm and



property sold to a better advantage than in most country places? The conservative power of character has done it."

Deacon Samuel Brown came from Brimfield, Massachusetts, 1831.

Deacon Briggs came from Massachusetts in 1831, member of the Baptist church, stayed only a few years.

Deacon Philip Gray, from Rhode Island, lived here about ten years and built the second frame barn on the prairie.

Deacon James Porter from Ohio, was a good leader, among the first members of the church in 1831 and was elected an officer in the church at the first election.

Deacon Simeon Mills continued longest in the place and died in 1879, aged 84 years.<sup>5</sup>





Civil History

When the old township of Brady was formed November 5, 1829, comprising the then counties of Kalamazoo and Barry and all the country lying north of that attached to St. Joseph County, the territory now known as Richland formed part of it. By an act approved July 30, 1830, the Territorial Legislature divided the county of Kalamazoo into two townships, Arcadia and Brady. Arcadia occupied the northern half and Brady the southern half. This remained until the spring of 1832, when the inhabitants of Gull Prairie, at a meeting assembled for the purpose of raising Amasa S. Parker's barn, resolved to petition the Legislative Council, then in session, for the passage of an act authorizing the erection of a new township. Upon the suggestion of Simeon Mills it was determined to name the township Richland.

The necessary papers were forwarded to Detroit, where the following act duly received the attention of the Council and the approval of the Governor, June 1832:

"Be it enacted by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan:

Sec. 1. That all that part of the county of Kalamazoo known as townships numbered 1 and 2 south





of the base line, in ranges numbered 1 and 10 west of the principal meridian, be a township by the name of Richland, and the first township meeting shall be held at the house of Caleb Eldred in said township;

Sec. 2. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after the 31st day of March next.<sup>6</sup>"

According to this act, the electors of Richland township met at the home of Caleb Eldred on the first Monday in April, 1833, and proceeded thus: - "The meeting was called to order by Isaac Barnes, a justice of the peace of Arcadia township. Sherman Cummings was chosen moderator, and Leland Lane clerk, pro tem. The board of election having been duly qualified, it was voted to elect all town officers that the law requires to be elected by ballot by single ticket. At the close of the balloting the officers declared elected were as follows: Isaac Barnes, supervisor; Leland Lane, township clerk; Cornelius Northrop, Simeon Mills, G. C. Merrill, assessors; William Logan, collector; George Townsend and William Logan, constables; John B. Barnes, Samuel Percival, overseers of the poor; John Moore, Charles Andrews, Isaac Barnes, highway commissioners;



Simeon Mills, Orville Barnes, George Townsend, school commissioners; Henry White, Isaac Briggs, Lovell Moore, school inspectors; William Y. Gilkey, Roswill Ransom, Henry Little, fence viewers; (fence viewers, pound-masters, and overseers of highway were elected by ayes and noes); Isaac Barnes, Simeon Mills, pound-masters; Leland Lane, Augustus Mills, Amasa S. Parker, Sherman Cummings, overseers of highways.

"Voted that fences shall be five feet high in said township; that all stallions be prohibited from running at large, under the penalty of \$10; that all boars be prohibited from running at large over two months old; under the penalty of \$5; to adjourn this meeting to the house of Samuel Brown, on Gull Prairie, on the first Monday in April, 1834." 7

Other township legislation: At a general election held July 8, 1833, for the purpose of electing a delegate to the U. S. House of Representatives, Lucius Lyons received 17 votes and William Woodbridge 10 votes.

In 1834 a \$5 bounty was offered "for each and every wolf destroyed in the township."

The township election was held in the school





house near Daniel's' tavern in 1835, and in the meeting house in 1836. During the same year Timothy Mills, Willard Butterfield, and J. C. Stonehouse were granted tavern licenses by the payment of \$5 each. In 1844, a tavern license was granted Elnathan Judson.

In 1844, the amount of taxes levied was \$839.16 to be applied for the following purposes: county, \$306.85; township, \$127.28; highways, \$35.21; schools, \$364.82; poor, \$5.00.





Political History

Richland at an early day was Democratic in politics. In the township elections the issue was made upon men or some local issue until 1844 when the Abolition movement became quite strong. Later there was constant rivalry between the Whigs and the Democrats. The Whigs were in power, although the Democrats were gaining from many of the new settlers.

In 1850 the Democrats won the election and were in power until 1855, when the Whigs came forth, re-organized and with strong men, to win some offices.

Since the formation of the Republican party, it has been largely in the majority, sometimes polling three-fourths of the vote.



Indians In Richland

"When the first settlers came upon Gull Prairie they found two bands of the Pottawattomie Indians in the east part of the township. The Indian title to the land had been extinguished, but they remained for a time near the old hunting grounds- the mounds where their dead were buried, and the land which they had cultivated. The outlines of their garden-beds are still discernible, and several mounds are still visible, one north of the village. In 1830, they had as many as fifty lodges or huts near some large springs in the east part of the township, not far from the place where Mr. Giddings built his long house. At this date they disposed of their dead by placing them in a sitting posture, inclosed by driving stakes into the ground, and covered to protect them from exposure. They were friendly, and were accustomed to traffic with their white neighbors, bartering their baskets for flour or meat. A few years later, when the Pottawattomies had disappeared, a band of Ottawas was brought from Grand Rapids by Rev. Leonard Slater, who had established a mission among them, and located directly north of the base line in Barry County. Those Indians remained there 15 or 20 years under his care. He was teacher and





missionary. He bought lands for them, and managed their business with the government. For several years their annuities were paid at this mission. These Indians generally came to Richland to sell baskets, sugar, berries, and skins. Some of them became persons of good character and were converts to Christianity. Their chief, Noonday, died as late as 1846. Mr. Slater was an earnest, true man, and did what he could to educate and Christianize his people. He spent the last part of his life among them. Two of his children, George L. Slater, Esq., and Mrs. Cornelius Mason reside in Richland. When the Indians removed farther north he went to Kalamazoo, Died in 1868."<sup>8</sup>





VillagesGeloster -

On the 19th of November, 1832, Carlos Barnes, acting under instructions of Isaac Barnes and James Porter, proprietor of the land, surveyed and made a plat of the village of Geloster, described as situated on the S. W. corner of the N. W. quarter of section 14. The name was derived from the names of Col. Barnes' sons - George, Carlos, and Lester. Streets running north and south were Broadway (for public buildings and other public uses), Pearl, Pleasant, Walnut, and Kalamazoo. The east and west streets were High, Center, and Main.

At about this time the Geloster post office was established, Col. Barnes securing the appointment of postmaster, which position he held until he moved from the township in 1841. The name of the office was then changed to Richland and was moved to "the hamlet then known as Gull Corners," Mumford Eldred, Jr., becoming postmaster.

With the removal of Col. Barnes, the name and once brilliant prospects of Geloster disappeared.

Mills Richland Village Plat -

The original village of Richland, situated on the S. E. corner  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 23, was platted by



Willard and Sylvester Mills, February 26, 1833.

Main and Washington were the east and west streets; Pearl and Catherine, north and south.

The only distinction ever gained for the plat was the establishment here by the Mills brothers of the first store and tailor shop in 1833.

Richland Village -

The incorporated village of Richland is situated upon Gull Prairie, one mile east of the geographical center of the township, and occupies the corner of sections 14, 15, 22, 23.

"It is on the line of the proposed Mansfield, Coldwater, and Lake Michigan Railroad, is nine miles distant northeast from Kalamazoo village; its chief shipping point by rail and is supplied with a daily mail. The village contains the beautiful church edifice of the Presbyterian Society, the Prairie Seminary building, one hotel, two stores of general merchandise, a carriage factory, a cider and vinegar manufactory, lodge rooms of Masonic and Odd Fellows Associations, two physicians (Dr. Uriah Upjohn and Dr. John M. Rankin), various mechanic shops, and a population of about 275 inhabitants." <sup>9</sup>





The settlers who originally owned the site, and lands in its immediate vicinity were Loyal H. Jones, Samuel Brown, Isaac Briggs, James Porter, Isaac Barnes, Cornelius Northrop, Philip Gray, William Jones, Simeon Mills, Jonathan Russell, and Mrs. Jane L. Giddings.

"The establishment of the diagonal road from Gull Prairie to Bronson, and the proposed territorial road from the southern boundary of Michigan Territory by the most eligible route via the county seat of St. Joseph County and village of Comstock to Gull Prairie, in 1833, marked this as the place for building the village of the township, notwithstanding the early endeavors of Col. Barnes and the Mills brothers to establish villages in different localities." <sup>10</sup>

The building of Timothy Mills' tavern in 1833, followed by the opening of Mumford Eldred's store in 1835, formed the nucleus of a village.

The people residing within the present limits in 1836 were Mumford Eldred, Jr., merchant; Chauncey U. Calkins (Mumford's clerk); Timothy Mills, tavern keeper; Ashbel Shephard, wagon-maker; David H. Daniels; Dr. Henry White; Asa Jones, Loyal H. Jones, and Daniel Deals, carpenter.





For many years the village was known as Gull Corners.

In accordance with an act to incorporate the village of Richland, approved March 18, 1871, the people residing in the corporate limits gathered at the Prairie Seminary April 9, 1872, for the purpose of electing their first village officers. Morgan Curtis and Charles U. Jones were chosen judges of the election; William S. Logan and George N. Jewett, as clerks. The whole number of votes cast was 51.

These officers were elected: Charles B. Brown, president; William S. Logan, Charles W. Jones, G. E. Read, Alvin B. Barnes, trustees; George N. Jewett, recorder; Morgan Curtis, assessor; Norman I. Whitney, treasurer.

#### Fraternal Organizations -

Odd Fellows - Richland Lodge No. 52; instituted February 24, 1851; charter granted July 23, 1852; charter members - Andrew M. Evans, N. G.; George W. Warren, Secretary; Horace M. Peck, William C. Sabin, Leonard S. Evans;

Masons - Richland Lodge No. 217 F. & A. M.; began work under a dispensation dated January 11, 1866; charter granted January 10, 1867; charter members - Daniel L. Johnson, W. M. George W. Brown, S. D.; Arthur W. Millspaugh, J. D.; Amos Bartholomew, S. W.; Samuel C. Wilkinson, J. W.;



Asa Hoag, Sec'y; E. C. Hathaway,  
Treasurer; Peter Hopple.

The Order of the Eastern Star began about 1890.







Presbyterian Church Richland Michigan

Richard

Presbyterian Church



Presbyterian Church

Before leaving Ohio, several heads of families had entered into a written agreement that they "would make it their first business, wherever they might locate, to secure religious privileges for themselves and the people."

The first Sabbath they rested and worshipped. "As they sang the songs of the church, read the Bible, and bowed in prayer, the Indians, who were encamped not far away, gathered around and listened attentively to their devotions. This was the first Christian assembly in this part of the country." <sup>11</sup>

From that time on the people met each Sunday in one of the cabins where services were conducted by one of the men.

Rev. William Jones, a Presbyterian, from New York, came in June, 1831. Rev. Levi White, a Congregationalist from Massachusetts, came in May, 1832. Rev. Mason Knappen, a Congregationalist from Vermont, came in 1833. Rev. Mr. Slater, from the Carey Mission Station near Niles and Rev. Mr. Gerry, from the Mackinac Mission probably each spent a Sunday or more here in 1830 and 1831.

On Friday, October 14, 1831, a public meeting was held to consider organizing a church. Rev. <sup>11</sup> Kalamazoo County History - 1880 - P. 470



Luther Humphrey, of St. Joseph Presbytery, was invited to act as moderator and Rev. William Jones as clerk. Those present consisted of about an equal number of Presbyterians and Congregationalists. The casting vote of the moderator decided it should be Presbyterian.

Sunday, October 16, the organization was completed and was called "The Presbyterian Church of Gull Prairie." Seventeen members were received, twelve by letter and five by confession; two children were baptized; and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed for the first time.

The next year twenty-nine more members were received. January 12, 1833, the church elected Samuel Brown and Simeon Mills as deacons, and James Porter, Samuel Brown, Samuel Woodruff, and Simeon Mills as elders. Ordained May 5, 1833.

The church had occasional supply pastors. Meetings were usually held in the home of Deacon Samuel Brown. On May 16, 1834, fifty members were received. Rev. Silas Woodbury was employed to preach part of the year 1836. Services were held in summer months in the old unfinished church near Deacon Brown's (Harry Snow farm), which was never completed, was finally sold and long used as a barn,





and torn down in July, 1877.

August 31, 1836, there was a meeting to elect a pastor. Rev. Mr. Woodbury was called, but did not come, and supply pastors served for that year.

On May 1, 1837, Samuel F. Brown, for fifty dollars, sold 130 square rods of land to the First Presbyterian Society of Gull Prairie as a site for the erection of a new church building. The new building was dedicated on November 30, 1837.

On February 7, 1838, Rev. Calvin Clark was called. He became installed on October 8, 1838, by the Kalamazoo Presbytery. By the following April forty-four had been received into the Presbyterian Church and sixteen into the Congregational Church.

In 1836 a Congregational Church had been organized by the Rev. John D. Pierce of Marshall and Rev. Mason Knappen, but the two churches continued to worship together.

In May, 1842, there was a meeting to discuss a plan of union. A minority opposed. Two churches were not needed and could not be supported. It was expected that the Congregationalists would join with the Presbyterians. Later a part of them did.

July 5, 1843, Rev. Calvin Clark presented his resignation. October 12, 1843, Rev. Milton Bradley





came and was ordained in July, 1844.

At that time the membership included: six Mills brothers, Deacon Samuel Brown, Samuel Woodruff, Edwin Mason, A. S. Parker, John B. and Orville Barnes, Asa and Loyal Jones and all their families.

The session consisted of: Rufus Read, Josiah Buell, John B. Barnes, Lorin Mills, A. R. Brown, and A. S. Parker.

By October, 1848, all the friction in regard to church organization was settled and the work was harmonious. In 1860 the present church was built by William Doolittle and Stephen B. Patrick. It was dedicated in February, 1861.

December 22, 1877, Rev. Milton Bradley was given six months leave of absence because of poor health, at the end of which he resigned. He was made pastor emeritus by joint action of the congregation and the Presbytery.

In November, 1878, Rev. John D. McCord came from Allegan. He was followed by other pastors as follows:

W. W. Wells

William Pryse, 1883-4

Samuel F. Bacon, Sept. 21, 1885 - November 1892

Theodore D. Marsh, stated supply, April 11, 1893 -  
April 4, 1896

George Rea, October 3, 1897 - August 11, 1901

V. K. Beshgetoor, Sept. 23, 1901 - Sept. 18, 1904



T. A. Scott, April 7, 1905 - November 10, 1912  
 William S. Potter, supply, 1913 - 1918  
 Lemuel F. Smith, supply, 1918-1921  
 Reuben Smith, supply, 1921-1923  
 Leason Sharpe, April 9, 1923-January, 1926  
 James Smith, supply, July 1, 1926-July 1, 1927  
 Horace Bacon, supply, Sept. 1, 1927 - Sept. 1, 1928  
 E. V. Belles, February 3, 1929-November 9, 1936  
 H. J. Bonnema, October 10, 1937-March 10, 1940  
 The last names of others who supplied are Ferris,  
 Hall, Osborn, and R. S. Smith.

The church held its centennial celebration  
 on October 17 and 18, 1931. The Missionary Society  
 was organized in 1878; the Ladies Aid February 26,  
 1890; Christian Endeavor in 1886, and the W. C. T.  
 U. March 13, 1901.

A bronze tablet on a stone marker in the park  
 commemorates the first religious service held in  
 Kalamazoo County. The tablet says, "This tablet  
 commemorates the first religious service held in  
 Kalamazoo County. It was conducted by John Barnes  
 and Seldon Norton in May, 1830, under an oak, one  
 and a half miles southeast of Richland village." <sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Kalamazoo Gazette, May, 1924









Methodist Church, Rickland, as it was



Second Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. William Danbury was the leader of the Methodists. His field was in the western part of Richland township and in Cooper township. No regular organization was made until February 25, 1858, when Rev. S. A. Osborne, after holding a series of meetings in the school of district No. 7, formed the West Richland class of the Prairieville Circuit, Rev. Joseph Jennings, presiding elder.

Among the members were: Henry and Julia Rector, George Tolhurst, Eliza Simmons, Helen Simons, Lawrence Keef, Louisa Keef, John Simons, Jane Simons, J. A. Bogardus, Franklin Reeve, Fanny Reeve.

A parsonage was built in Richland village in 1861 and a church in 1866-67. There were 68 members in 1879.

The pastors who served the church are listed as follows:

1861 E. H. Day	1887 S. Kitzmiller
1863 E. C. Chambers	1888 W. T. Cook
1865 H. C. Peck	1889 Supplied
1867 E. Marble	1890 R. K. Manaton (S)
1869 Wm. Rice	1891 W. H. Stacey
1870 M. I. Smith	1893 J. F. Peschman
1871 Thos. Cleghorne	1894 W. M. Colby
1873 Joshua White	1895 J. B. Peatling
1875 E. H. Day	1898 E. J. Bradner
1877 S. P. Hewett	1900 E. E. Wood
1880 John A. Bready	1901 G. V. Fallis
1882 Uri Mason	1903 J. W. Lawrence (S)
1884 W. P. French	









Community House Former Methodist Church Richland Mich.

1905 D. C. Riehl	1917 S. L. Ragan
1907 C. B. Martin	1918 George A. Buell
1908 Joel Hilburn	1920 Thos. W. Thompson
1909 F. S. Ford	1922 Sidney Catherman
1911 A. L. Ellsworth	1923 O. J. Golden
1914 Charles Hayward	1924 A. C. Parsons
1916 Clyde Donald	

The pastorate of A. C. Parsons closed in 1926 and during the following year the church ceased to exist as an organization and the building was sold to become the Community House.

#### First Methodist Episcopal Church

A class in Methodism, known as The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Richland was formed at about the same time as the Second church. Their meetings were held in the Knappen school, but its existence was short.





Wesleyan Methodist Society

Samuel Boyles, Horace Coppins, Isaac Gay, David Carpenter, David Reynolds, R. Crosby, George W. Townsend, Nathan Hawson, Robert O. Carpenter, Henry Deline, George W. Woods, Loren Francisco, and Uriah Upjohn were among the members of the Wesleyan Methodist Foundation which was early organized and regularly incorporated March 10, 1867. At one time it was active and thriving, meeting in the old Presbyterian church building; but later it disbanded.

Richland Sabbath School

The first organization found among the early settlers of Gull Prairie was the Sabbath School. During the fall and winter of 1830 the few families met in the home of John B. Barnes (now the F. W. Hale farm). They organized with Orville Barnes as superintendent and teacher. This is the same organization that is now connected with the Presbyterian Church. At the time the Sunday School was organized there were but four Sabbath Schools in the state, and none west of Ann Arbor.

In 1831, it met in the home of Cornelius Northrop with Deacon Simeon Mills as superintendent. Deacon Isaac Briggs was the first superintendent in



the new church building. In 1880, there were 300 on the roll with an average attendance of 160 divided into 19 classes. In 1939 the average attendance was about 80.

The church bell was purchased in 1842 for the Presbyterian Church. It was rung for funerals, meetings, and at 5:00 A. M., 9:00 A. M., 12 M., and 9:00 P. M. It was later put in the Union School.





Education

During the winter of 1831-1832, Rev. William Jones taught a small class in his home. The class included William and Marsh Giddings and others. In the winter of 1832-1833, Isaac Briggs taught school in a log school house. The following summer Miss Celestia Barnes, daughter of Tillotson Barnes (later Mrs. A. S. Parker) taught in the same school. Later in the same summer Miss Mary White taught. The members of the first board of school inspectors were Henry White, Isaac Briggs, and Lovell Moore.

In the winter of 1836-1837, Lester Barnes taught a select school in Geloster. Among his pupils were William Doolittle, Alvin and Melza Barnes, and Joseph Elliott, a young Pottawattomie Indian. A brother of Epaphroditus Ransom also taught a select school.

May 10, 1837, a new school board met at Timothy Mills' tavern and organized five school districts. Small school houses were soon after built in districts 1, 2, and 5.

In 1842, the amount of public money received for school purposes was \$25.60. May 4, 1844, Miss Mary Barnes received a certificate to teach; Miss Emily S. Ellis on August 31, 1844; Mr. Alfred Nevins





on November 2, 1844. In 1848 there were six districts. Those licensed to teach in 1845 were Miss Helen Carroll, Miss Mary Davis, Mrs. Alta Hawley, Gilbert E. Read, Miss E. Peck, William Doolittle and Morgan Curtis.

The number of districts September 1, 1879, was seven whole and four fractional, a total of eleven; number of children of school age in the township, 391; number attending school, 368; number of school houses, 11; seating capacity, 416; value of school property, \$5,625; male teachers, four; female teachers, 17; months taught by male teachers, 11; months taught by female teachers, 63  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; paid male teachers, \$475.60; paid female teachers, \$1507.50.



Prairie Seminary

The first chartered institution of learning in Richland and among the first in the Territory was the "Richland Academy" authorized by an act of the Legislative Council in 1833. The trustees named were Caleb Eldred, Samuel Brown, Asa Jones, Samuel Woodruff, and John F. Gilkey, who were authorized to hold property to an amount not exceeding \$20,000. This was never put into action, but the idea was not forgotten.

In 1849, when commissioners were appointed to locate the State Normal School, the people of Richland pledged \$7,000, but Ypsilanti won out.

In 1853, agitation was again begun for a high school or an academy. William L. Curtis, son of Morgan Curtis, tells this statement made by one of the fathers who had sons eligible for higher education: "Now they are getting to be men, and they are not receiving the proper education; we can't send them to this school any more; they turn all the teachers out, and we can't send them to Ann Arbor, because they will go to rack and ruin."<sup>13</sup>

A stock company was organized and issued stock at \$25 a share. The principal stockholders were:

<sup>13</sup> Kalamazoo Evening Telegraph, August 30, 1906





J. F. Gilkey, Morgan Curtis, Horace M. Peck, Rev. Milton Bradley, E. R. Miller, Alfred Nevins, C. W. Calkins, G. E. Read, William H. Sabin, D. H. Daniels, R. H. Warn , Stillman Jackson, Deacon Samuel Brown, E. B. Brown, Ira Hoyt, Samuel F. Brown, Josiah Buell, Ira Peake, A. S. Parker, Henry Knappen, Henry Little.

A two-story frame building 40x60 was built in 1854. D. H. Daniels was the contractor. The building and lot cost \$2500.

The academy opened in April, 1855, with Miss Mary E. Hills of Amherst, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Mount Holyoke Seminary, in charge. In September the academy opened with a full staff, with John T. Miller as principal and Miss Hills as preceptress. Miss Hills continued for three years. Professor N. H. Walbridge, of Ohio, had charge in 1858-1859. He was succeeded by J. C. Burrows of Ohio, who was followed by A. S. Hardy, of Amherst, who was succeeded by Professor E. G. Hall.

The school was in operation about twenty years, the last term being in 1877. When it was first opened pupils came from considerable distances, and this continued until the system of union schools was in successful operation in nearby counties.





It was never expected by the original promoters to be a profitable enterprise so far a money went. A considerable amount besides the tuition was necessary for the upkeep. They had the satisfaction of "knowing that it had been an exceedingly useful institution, sending forth a large number of students, well educated, and prepared for responsible and honorable positions in society."

The average attendance in the most prosperous days was about 100. When the Academy burned most of the old records were lost and there is little known about the people that attended. Among those who attended in 1873 were:<sup>14</sup> Walter A. Spaulding, Hastings, Cassius F. Bissell, Mrs. Addie Buell Etter, Mrs. Ida Mason Barnes, Mrs. Carrie Barnes Upjohn, Miss Hattie E. Cummings, Mrs. Belle Jackson Little, Mrs. Ella Jackson Skeens, James Jackson, Mrs. Hattie Read Cook, Edward S. Rankin, William Slater, Mrs. Mary Travis Dewey, Mrs. Emma Travis Stratton, Robert Telfer, James Telfer, Isa Wilcox, Mrs. Stella Dewey, Wallace Dewey.

The Union School was built on East Main street in 1884.

In 1923, Richland became a teacher training unit of Western State Teachers College. It con-  
<sup>14</sup> Kalamazoo Gazette January 16, 1938 - also 1916



solidated eight districts, including all of Richland township, a large fractional district from Comstock township. In 1937, the Howlandsburg school district was put into the consolidation; in 1938, Cressy school in Barry County was admitted, and also a fractional district from Cooper township. In 1938 there were 365 students.

#### Here and There

Included among the first students in Kalamazoo College the following were from Richland vicinity: Dwight, Elizabeth and Charles S. May; Rev. Leonard Slater's children; J. Powers, Rachel Browne, Miss Harkness, Andrew J. Eldred, and Alfred Otis.

In 1867, Rev. Milton Bradley was one of two delegates from this district to the constitutional convention.

William P. Giddings was the victim of the first murder which occurred in Kalamazoo County. He was slain November 15, 1837, when struck over the head with a stone during an altercation over a dog fight.

Mrs. Caroline P. Dana probably has as wierd an epitaph as any found in a cemetery:

"She lived beloved: died lamented by all who  
knew her. Through insanity she from her own  
husband did creep, leaving him fast asleep,  
And to another room did go,  
And with a razor caused her own blood to flow.





Old settlers recall that some mystery was attached to her death.

Bank - The successor of the Farmer's National Bank was the Farmer's State Savings Bank organized in 1914, with Milo A. Snow as president, succeeded by James Telfer, who was succeeded by Roy L. Nichols. In 1936 it was decided to discontinue the bank and transfer the business to Augusta.

Mrs. Helen Barrett was Michigan's last real D. A. R.

The Ladies Library Association was begun in 1880.

Town Hall - The Town Hall originally stood where the Community Hall is now, serving for a long time as a school house, replacing one used in 1837, when the districts were first mapped out. It contained two rooms heated by box stoves. When it became inadequate for school purposes, new quarters were provided in the lower floor of the old seminary building. About 1900, the building was moved to East Main street to be used as the town hall. It was used for many social gatherings, especially patriotic functions.<sup>15</sup>

Community Hall. This was formally opened November 3, 1930, sponsored by the Gull Prairie Garden Club. It was formerly the Methodist Episco-





pal Church and was a gift to the township and village from Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Humphrey of Kalamazoo. It was remodeled at a cost of \$4,000 to meet the needs of the community house and town hall.<sup>16</sup>

The Knappen Milling Company was organized in 1929 and has been continually expanding. It grinds more Michigan wheat than any other mill in the state.

In 1869-1870, Richland contained two churches, 10 school houses, two stores, two groceries, two hotels, two wagon shops, four blacksmith shops, one saw mill, two physicians, three shoemakers, two painters, and one harness maker.

In 1940 Richland contains: one church, one school, one Community Hall, Ladies Library, post office, drug store, barber shop, one hardware, grain elevator, lumber yard, two garages, two filling stations, one general merchandise store, one grocery, and meat store, one restaurant, one fire station, Masonic Hall, I. O. O. F. Hall.

15 Kalamazoo Gazette January 1, 1937

16 Kalamazoo Gazette November 2, 1930



HONORABLE GILBERT E. READ

Gilbert E. Read came from New Hampshire in 1842. He was supervisor of Richland township for a number of years and acted as chairman of the board. He also had been township clerk and a school inspector.

He was elected in 1860 to the Lower House of the Michigan State Legislature and was successfully re-elected in 1862 and 1864, serving six sessions, there having been three extra sessions owing to the war excitement. During his third term he was elected Speaker of the House. He served on several important committees and was quite instrumental in getting the Insane Asylum established in Kalamazoo.

In 1876, he was elected State Senator, serving one term.





Gustave Riedel





G U S T A V E   R I E D E L

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Gustave Riedel was born in Posen, Germany, February 10, 1867, son of Frederick and Johanna Howe Riedel. His brothers and sisters were: Mrs. Mary Laube, deceased; Mrs. Helen Botchers, deceased; Mrs. Anna Riedel, Mrs. Herman Koegel and Ferdinand, all residing in Chicago, Illinois; Charles of Kalamazoo, and Edmund, deceased.

Gustave Riedel's father was a school teacher in Germany and assisted his sons and daughters with their education and Gustave completed the eighth grade at the age of fourteen and was then apprenticed to learn brush making.

As time went by young Mr. Riedel made trips occasionally about Europe buying hog bristles. Later he traveled more extensively and brought back with him bristles which he prepared or "dressed" for use. By this means he earned the money with which to come to the United States and bring his sister Anna with him. He arrived in New York in 1889 and at first worked on a farm for his room and board until his brother sent him money with which



to reach Chicago, Illinois. Within one and one-half years he sent for his mother and his sweetheart and immediately upon their arrival in Chicago he was married November 21, 1891, to Maria Laube, who was also born and educated in Posen, Germany, the date of her birth being December 19, 1873.

Mr. and Mrs. Riedel became the parents of a daughter and a son. The daughter, Eva Ella, married Frederick William Moessen of Kalamazoo, Michigan, is the mother of Gustave W., an alumnus of Kalamazoo College and Brown University, and at this time, 1941, is a graduate student in Penn State College; she is also the mother of Helen Marie, born April 24, 1922, was graduated from Central High School in Kalamazoo in 1940, and is a student at Nazareth College. Their son, Adam William, was born September 17, 1897, married Gliden Ruth Pearce, resides in Kalamazoo. Mrs. Moessen and her brother Adam William are both engaged in carrying on the business their father developed.

As soon as Gustave Riedel arrived in Chicago he took out his first papers for citizenship and was admitted to full citizenship in 1891.

In Chicago he found employment dressing bristles for Gerts, Lombard & Company, a brush





concern. He remained with this firm for three or four years and then went to work for J. J. Adams & Company of New York and made samples for the United States Navy, he and his brother being the only ones trained for this work. He remained with this company until about 1898, when he went with a small brush house in North Adams, Massachusetts. After he had been there a few months the paper makers at Holyoke, Massachusetts, induced him to come to that city to make suitable brushes for coating paper. He remained in Holyoke until 1906, when he moved to Paw Paw, Michigan, and established a small plant of his own and began supplying the rapidly growing paper industry near that part of Michigan. In 1910, he moved to Kalamazoo and set up his business at 229 Woodward avenue. The demand for his brushes increased rapidly and in 1925 the factory and offices were moved to 829 Woodward avenue, where he estimated that he produced ninety-three per cent of the world's paper-coating brushes.

Made by hand out of rare, imported Siberian and Manchurian hog bristles, he and his son carried on a non-mass production art of mill coating brushes. Their technics still include the minute





inspection of each bristle individually before processing. Mr. Riedel's life in this country began too late for him to see the beginning of most of the mills in industrial New England, but he came to the Mid-west in time for the paper making development of the Kalamazoo valley.

In 1928, Mr. Riedel made a trip to Europe to buy bristles and traveled through Poland, Switzerland and Germany and upon his return reported that there was a marked change in Germany.

His integrity and genuine desire to make the best possible brushes for coating mills gained him a large following and earned him countless friends from mill officials down through the machine operators and color men to whom he was always known as "Gus."

Many mill officials now at the head or holding responsible positions in coating mills are men who started their careers using his brushes.

Generally, Mr. Riedel voted the Republican ticket, but in local elections he voted for the man whom he believed to be best qualified. He always urged his employees to vote. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and belonged to the Elks. He united with the Zion Lutheran



Evangelical Church in 1906 and while he lived in Paw Paw used to drive to Kalamazoo with his team to attend church. He was very devoted to his church and served many years as an elder. He was one of those outstanding citizens who chose these United States as his homeland and gave to it a very valuable contribution to its industrial development, a fine family for its social structure, a devoted loyalty to its political institutions and a high quality of Christian character, which is the foundation upon which rests the liberties of the nation.

On October 23, 1940, Gustave Riedel closed his very fruitful activities on this earth to begin his appointed tasks elsewhere under the guidance and good pleasure of the Master he loved and served. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Emanuel Mayer, pastor of Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and burial was in Riverside cemetery.





John Russell Riddell





J O H N   R U S S E L L   R I D D E L L   J R .

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John Russell Riddell, Jr., was born in Memphis, Tennessee, December 25, 1917, the son of John Russell and Anita Chighizola Riddell, who were also the parents of Mary Elma, who married Wallace MacMullen and resides in New York City.

John Russell, Jr., attended school in Memphis, Tennessee, in Boston two years, in Pawling, New York, Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tennessee, and Louisiana State University.

He found employment with the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in a branch office in Spartanberg, South Carolina, for about one year.

#### Military Experience

John joined the infantry March 27, 1942, and was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for basic training, after which he joined the 94th Division at Fort Custer, Michigan. He was then transferred to Camp Phillips, Kansas, later participated in maneuvers in Tennessee. For a time he was in Camp Forrest, Tennessee, and later in Camp McCain, Mississippi. He was shipped overseas to England in



August 1944 and reached France in September, 1944, and was at St. Nazaire until January 1, 1945. He then went into Germany with the Third Army under General Patton and was killed in action at Tettingen, Germany, January 18, 1945. He received the Combat Infantryman's Badge and was also holder of the Good Conduct Medal.

#### Marriage

John Russell Riddell, Jr., was married January 30, 1943, to Ethel Reenders of Kalamazoo. She was educated in the Kalamazoo public schools and was graduated from Central High School in 1932, after which she spent two years in Michigan State College. Mr. and Mrs. Riddell began housekeeping in Salina, Kansas, and went from there to Mississippi.

#### Personal Characteristics

John was five feet eleven inches tall and weighed about one hundred thirty pounds with medium brown hair and green eyes. He enjoyed golf, tennis, fishing and dancing, and was a member of the Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity and of the Roman Catholic Church.

The name of John Russell Riddell, Jr., now belongs with the radiant list of fine young men who gave their lives to preserve and extend freedom. May his memory ever be cherished by us all!





(Copy)

HEADQUARTERS, 376TH INFANTRY  
APO 94 c/o Postmaster, New York, NY  
Office of the Commanding Officer

24 January 1945

Mrs. Ethel Riddell  
529 Forest Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Riddell:

It is with deep sympathy that I write to you of the death of your husband Staff Sergeant John R. Riddell, Jr., 322 323 85. John was killed 18 January 1945 in Germany while engaged in action against the enemy. He was buried with fitting burial rites read by a Catholic Chaplain in an Army Cemetery in Luxembourg.

John joined this regiment more than two years ago and has served his country well as a superior non-commissioned officer and leader until the day of his death. He had been awarded the Good Conduct Medal for his exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity. By his excellent conduct in action against the enemy he had been awarded the right to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge.

The Company and the Regiment join me in extending our heart-felt sympathy. His loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him. We shall do our part in bringing this war to an early and successful conclusion so that his sacrifice will not have been in vain.

Very sincerely

/s/

H. H. McCLUNE

H. H. McCLUNE  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding.





Robert Ben Rockwell



S G T .   R O B E R T   B E N   R O C K W E L L

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Robert Ben Rockwell was born April 28, 1914, in Kansas City, Kansas. He was the second of four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Rockwell. When Ben was four years of age, his father passed away and he went to live with an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Palmer. With them, he moved to Kalamazoo where he completed his first nine years of schooling. During six of these years, he sang in the St. Luke's Boys' Choir and through his associations there, became interested in the Episcopal Church and was baptized and confirmed.

He returned to Kansas City, graduated from High School and attended Junior College for two years there. Ben played a Clarinet in the band and orchestra in High School and College and sang with "The Chanters," a Masonic men's Chorus in Kansas City.

When he came back to Kalamazoo, he took a position at the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company and remained there until his enlistment in August, 1940, in an Aircraft Warning Unit of the



ROY. ROBERT BEN ROUSSELL

1914 - 1945

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Robert Ben Russell was born April 22, 1914, in Kansas City, Kansas. He was the second of four children born to Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Russell. When he was four years of age, his father passed away and he went to live with an uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Palmer. With them, he lived in Kansas where he completed his first nine years of schooling. During six of those years, he went to the Dr. Lee's boys' choir and through the association there, became interested in the Methodist Church and was baptized and confirmed. He returned to Kansas City, graduated from High School and attended Junior College for two years more. He played a Clarinet in the band and orchestra in High School and College and sang with "The Tenors," a vocal group in Kansas City.

When he came back to Kansas, he took a position as the Kansas Vegetable Experiment Company and remained there until his enlistment in August, 1940. In an aircraft waiting unit of the

United States Army Signal Corps for duty in Anchorage, Alaska. He returned to the United States early in 1943 and on March 9th, was married to Miss Dorothy Peters in St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo.

He was stationed at Drew Field, Tampa, Florida, for two months and then went back to Alaska, but his Company was broken up late in the fall of 1943, and he was moved back to Drew Field. His next assignment was Mitchell Field, Long Island, New York, and from there he went to Langley Field, Virginia. The changes in climate - from the sub-zero temperature of Alaska to the heat of Florida and Virginia - had serious effect on his respiratory system and during the extremely hot, humid night of July 24, 1945, it proved fatal to him.

A Requiem was said for him on the morning of July 30th at St. Luke's Church and the Burial Office was said there in the afternoon of the same day with interment at Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo.

Ben's death at the age of 31 years seemed untimely for he had many hopes and plans for the future - however, we know the real measure of any life is its quality and not its duration. Ben lived richly - he followed closely a rule of life to think deeply, speak gently, love much, laugh often, work hard, give freely, pay promptly, pray earnestly, and to be kind always.

United States Army Signal Corps for duty in  
 Anchorage, Alaska. He returned to the United States  
 early in 1945 and on March 15th, was detailed to  
 the General Post Office in St. John's Church, Baltimore.  
 He was stationed at that time, Tampa, Florida.  
 For two months and then went back to Alaska, but his  
 assignment was broken up late in the fall of 1945, and  
 he was moved back to New York. His next  
 assignment was General Field, Long Island, New York.  
 and this time he went to General Field, Virginia.  
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 system and during the extremely hot, humid night of  
 July 24, 1945, it proved fatal to him.  
 A doctor was called for him on the morning of  
 July 25th at St. John's Church and the United Office  
 was said there in the afternoon of the same day when  
 treatment of Riverside Cemetery, Baltimore.  
 John's death at the age of 31 years seemed  
 unlikely for he had many hopes and plans for the  
 future - however, we know the real cause of his  
 death is the quality and not the quantity. One  
 lived freely - he followed closely a rule of life so  
 strict that, spent nearly, took much, took often,  
 very hard, gave freely, put himself, very carefully,  
 and in the end always.



Edward G. Ritchie



E D W A R D   G   R I T C H I E

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Edward G. Ritchie was born in Martin, Michigan, June 17, 1921, son of Clyde Ritchie, who was born August 5, 1897, and Julia Tiefenthal Ritchie, who was born June 1, 1899, of Scotch-Irish descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ritchie were also the parents of:

Addie Bell, born March 8, 1923, married Edward Marcinkowski, who is now, 1943, with the United States Armed Forces in North Africa;

Paul, born May 23, 1925;

Ilene, born June 20, 1927;

Sarah, born [REDACTED];

Clyde, Jr., born January 4, 1931;

Betty, born [REDACTED];

Joyce, born [REDACTED];

Billy, born March 27, 1935;

Mary, born November 23, 1936; and

Walter, born [REDACTED].

Edward attended Woodward Avenue Public School and Central High School until he reached the twelfth grade, when he left and obtained employment at a gasoline service station at the corner of Douglas and





Paterson streets. His next work was with the Holt and Haas Dairy on North street, followed for a time by employment at a service station at the corner of Edwards and East Main streets. For two years he was employed by the Miller Lumber Company.

February 6, 1942, Edward G. Ritchie was married to Miss Dorothy Phyllis Jones of Kalamazoo, Michigan, who was born in Kalamazoo February 4, 1923. The marriage was performed by the Reverend John Rose, pastor of the Gospel Light House. She was the daughter of Bernard G. Jones, residing at 3620 East Main street, Kalamazoo, Michigan, who was born in Mendon, Michigan, January 23, 1900, the son of Fred and Jessie Jones of Welsh and German descent. The mother of Dorothy Phyllis was Nora B. Dolph Jones, who was born October 16, 1898, in Minnesota, the daughter of Allen and Julia Marshall Dolph.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dolph were also the parents of:

Delbert H., who married Jennie Lawson and became the father of June and Jean and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Cleve, who married Elnora Anderson, became the father of Frederick, Frances, Delbert, Rosetta and Allen and lives in Harvey, Illinois;

Percy, who married Glorean Rowe, became the father of Marshall, who is in the United States Marines, - Percy died in 1929;





Otis, who married Vianna Reynolds, became the father of Allen, Donald, Emily and Raymond and lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Rex, who married Edna May Wheaton and lives in Rochester, Michigan;

Martha Jane, who married (1) Edward Surdick and they became the parents of Dale Edward, born January 19, 1921, Shirley Margaret, born June 19, 1923, Leo Richard, born June 20, 1926, married (2) Theron Martin, and they became the parents of Junior, born August 16, 1933, Howard Rex, born March 4, 1935;

Florence, who married (1) Glen Fox, and they became the parents of Kathryn and twins, Garnet and Glen, married (2) William Lloyd and they became the parents of Billy and Phyllis;

Verna, who married Donald Durham and they became the parents of Donald, Judith Marie and David.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dolph moved to Minnesota, taking their five sons with them in a wagon drawn by a team of horses. While there the daughter Nora was born. Not finding the state to their liking they moved to a place near New Carlisle, Indiana.

Edward G. Ritchie and his bride began house-keeping in an apartment they had previously rented at 637 Denner street and for which they had bought their furniture. Here these Christian young people established their home.

In August 1942, he was drafted into the armed service of the United States and left Kalamazoo



for Fort Custer. He was soon transferred to Fort McClellan, Alabama, and from there to Fort Slocum, New York state. From there he was sent to Camp Miles Standish, Massachusetts, and then was shipped overseas.

While at Fort Slocum he was given a three days leave of absence and reached Kalamazoo at six P. M. on Christmas day 1942, and left at 2 A. M., December 27 to return to Fort Slocum.

On the way across the North Atlantic Ocean, near the coast of North Africa, the transport on which Edward was crossing was lost on February 2, 1943, and Mrs. Ritchie was notified that her husband was missing, later receiving word that he was presumably lost at sea. Since some lives were saved Mrs. Ritchie has hopes that he was picked up by a ship and may eventually be found safe.

Mr. Ritchie was five feet, nine inches tall, of medium build, very blonde, and had blue eyes. He was of a friendly nature, possessed a winning personality and was jolly and happy. He liked to be with people who had an optimistic attitude toward life.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie joined the Gospel Light House Mission the year before they were married. They were fond of their minister and sincerely





believed in the work, and supported it financially the best they could.

Edward was a dependable young man and a good worker. His wife, Dorothy, is a very attractive lady with unusual poise and grace. She is now, 1943, employed in defense work at the Sutherland Paper Mill and living in hope that her husband will be returned to her. On the wall of her living room hangs a certificate which reads:

"This certifies that Edward G. Ritchie is serving in the United States Army for the Defense of his country. World War II  
Fort McClellan, Alabama, Sept. 11, 1942."

Mrs. Ritchie also cherishes the "Purple Heart" which she received.

Edward G. Ritchie is enrolled with other fine young men from Kalamazoo and other cities and rural communities of the United States whose memory will be cherished by those for whom they offered their lives that freedom and democracy might not perish from the earth.





Paul Ritchie



P A U L   R I T C H I E

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Paul Ritchie was born in Allegan, Michigan, May 23, 1925, a son of Clyde Ritchie, who was born August 15, 1897, in Watson township, Allegan county, Michigan, the son of Samuel and Sarah McKeg Ritchie, of Scotch-Irish ancestry.

Clyde Ritchie's brothers and sisters were: John, deceased; Jennie, who resides in Battle Creek, Michigan; James, who lives in Watson township; Andrew, who also resides in Watson township; Samuel, who lives on the old home place in Watson; William, who resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Agnes, who also lives on the old home place.

Paul's mother was Julia Tiefenthal Ritchie, who was born in Martin, Michigan, a daughter of Gust and Addie Baker Tiefenthal of German descent. The date of her birth was June 1, 1899. Her brothers were: Lonnie, who lives in Chicago, Illinois; Leonard, who resides in Hopkins, Michigan; and Lowell, whose home is in Allegan, Michigan; Leonard and Lowell are twins. Julia has one sister, Hazel, who is deceased.





Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ritchie were married in Allegan, Michigan, and started housekeeping on a farm in Allegan county. They also became the parents of:

Edward G., born June 17, 1921, was a soldier and lost his life February 2, 1943, and his record is in this collection;

Addie Bell, born March 8, 1923, married Edward Marcinkowski, who is serving with the U. S. 5th Division forces in Europe;

Ilene, born June 20, 1927;

Sarah, born [REDACTED];

Clyde, Jr., born January 4, 1931;

Betty, born [REDACTED];

Joyce, born [REDACTED];

Billy, born March 27, 1935;

Mary, born November 23, 1936; and

Walter, born [REDACTED].

When Paul was a few weeks old the family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and resided on North street. Paul attended the Woodward Avenue School and later was graduated from the Roosevelt School from the ninth grade.

While attending school he helped to earn his pocket money by working at the Nut House on South Burdick street. After leaving school he worked at the Liberty Market until September 2, 1943, when he was called into the Armed Services of his country.





### Military Experience

Paul was inducted at Fort Custer and then sent to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, for basic training. He was assigned to the 254th Infantry, Company F, 63rd Division, known as the "Blood and Fire Division."

From Camp Van Dorn he was given a furlough for seven days the last of January, 1944. After he returned to Camp Van Dorn he was sent to Camp Dix, New Jersey, where he was re-assigned with his Company F to the 358th Infantry, Oklahoma, known as the "Texas Outlaw Division."

After about three weeks in Camp Dix, Paul was sent overseas and landed in England. From there he was sent into combat in France where he was killed in action June 11, 1944, having spent ten and one-half months in service.

### Personal Characteristics

Paul had dark hair, blue eyes and a clear skin. He was five feet eleven inches in height with an erect military bearing. He was rather reserved and quiet. Paul engaged in football and baseball with his pals, but was willing to watch the games from the side lines. He was more reticent than his brothers as to his personal affairs.

Paul was fond of children, especially his



his brothers and sisters.

He attended the Simpson Methodist Sunday School and was a fine, home loving boy.

Paul enjoyed the radio and liked to tinker with tools. In his speech he was gentle with a soft, smooth voice.

Pvt. Paul Ritchie was another of the fine young men of Kalamazoo who have given their lives to preserve freedom on the earth. These United States need such young men as Paul Ritchie, citizens of his country and citizens of the Kingdom of God.

(This was written in October 1944)





Peter Marvin Ritsema





P E T E R   M A R V I N   R I T S E M A

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Peter Marvin Ritsema was born on South Burdick street in Kalamazoo, Michigan, July 10, 1921, the son of Claus E. Ritsema and Mary Post Ritsema, who were married in Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the Reverend Samuel Elderweld of the First Christian Reformed Church. They also became the parents of:

Mary W., who was born November 8, 1914 and resides with her parents in Kalamazoo;

Edward C., born October 21, 1916, married Evelyn Van Nus and is now, 1945, on Iwo Jima in the Army Medical Hospital Corps;

Louise, born October 14, 1918, a teacher in South Haven, Michigan, who makes her home with her parents in Kalamazoo;

Matthew John, born January 3, 1924, is in the Southwest Pacific with the 132d Engineers; and

David, born February 4, 1927, enlisted in January 1945, Navy, Seaman, 1st Class.

Marvin attended the Millwood School, after which he went to Washington Junior High School and then to Central High School. He then worked for the Kalamazoo Stationery Company until he joined the Marines June 2, 1942.

Military Experience



Peter Marvin Ritsema was first sent to Detroit, Michigan, and then to San Diego, California, where he remained until October 12 or 13, 1942, when he was shipped to Guadal Canal as a second replacement. After resting in Australia he was sent to Cape Gloucester and rested later in Guadal Canal. He was killed in action on the fourth day of fighting on the beach head on Pelelieu Island September 19, 1944. At the time of death he held the rank of Corporal.

#### Personal Characteristics

Peter Marvin Ritsema was five feet eleven inches tall and weighed about one hundred sixty-five pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes. He was very friendly, played center field in baseball and was a member of a basket ball team that played at the Young Men's Christian Association gymnasium, the Kalamazoo Stationery team. He also enjoyed swimming and golf.

Marvin enjoyed working in the greenhouse with the flowers. He had a pal, Richard Clark, a neighbor boy, and they went together overseas and kept together in the service. Richard was a Roman Catholic.

Marvin was a member of the Protestant Christian Reformed Church and attended the Sunday school and





the worship services. He was also a member of the Young Men's Christian Association. While in service Marvin attended the chapel services and assisted the chaplain.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt awarded the Purple Heart posthumously to Peter Marvin Ritsema and the certificate also bore the signatures of James Forrestal, Secretary of the United States Navy, and A. A. Vandergrift, Lieutenant General of the United States Marine Corps.

"In grateful memory of Peter Marvin Ritsema United States Marine Corps, who died in the service of his country at Pelelieu Island 19 September 1944."

He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase her blessings.

Freedom lives and through it he lives in a way that humbles most men and their achievements. Gold Star Peter Marvin Ritsema, we salute you. The gold symbolizes the high value of your service and sacrifice and the star your radiant contribution to the light of freedom which the peoples of the world behold with hope for the future.

"I will not hold a rendezvous with death,  
As men go struggling, dying, sinking with  
each breath.  
I will go stalwart as the river's tide  
And with a surge and shout leap the divide -  
Bold as a cataract."





Awarded Silver Star Medal

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with the First battalion, Seventh Marines, First marine division in action against the enemy, Japanese forces on the island of Pelelieu on September 19, 1944." So read Captain Frances Bowers, Marine officer stationed at Dearborn, Michigan, in the home of the parents of Peter Marvin Ritsema in Kalamazoo as he honored Corporal Ritsema post-humously by pinning the medal on the chest of his brother, Staff Sergeant Matthew J. Ritsema.

The citation then explained that Corporal Peter Marvin Ritsema, in an attempt to maintain communication lines during an intense enemy barrage, exposed himself to danger until he was mortally wounded by a burst of machine gun fire. Those who were present to witness the ceremony, besides those already mentioned were: Mr. and Mrs. Claus E. Ritsema, discharged Sergeant Edward C. Ritsema, S l/c David Ritsema of the navy, two sisters, Miss Mary Ritsema of Kalamazoo, Miss Louise Ritsema of South Haven, Michigan, and Sergeant Dick Clark, who was with Corporal Ritsema shortly before his death. The date of the occasion was January 11, 1946.







Rev. James I. Robe and wife, first M. E. ministers in Kalamazoo

J A M E S   T   R O B E

First Minister to Preach in Kalamazoo and  
Founder of Kalamazoo Methodism

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James T. Robe was born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, April 12, 1807, of Irish descent.. After some time spent in acquiring an education, he began preaching in 1831 at Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana. He joined the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the session which began October 4, 1831. He had been a member of the church since the age of fourteen. At this conference he was appointed to Wayne circuit as junior preacher, James Tarkington, senior preacher.

The Indiana Annual Conference was formed in May 1832, and included Kalamazoo. In the fall of that year the Indiana Annual Conference met for the first time and James T. Robe was appointed to Kalamazoo. According to Elijah H. Pilcher, D. D., James T. Robe was the first minister of any denomination to preach in the village of Bronson, which later was named Kalamazoo. He preached in the house of Titus Bronson, which stood near the corner of Church and Water streets. At the session of the Indiana Annual Conference





in the fall of 1833, Mr. Robe was ordained deacon and appointed to the Carlisle and Vincennes district. At the session of the Indiana Annual Conference at Centreville, Wayne County, Indiana, September 12, 1834, Mr. Robe was again appointed to Kalamazoo mission which reported 250 members. This year he formed a class at Silver Creek and Paw Paw. His preaching appointments were Kalamazoo, Indian Fields, Climax, Tolland's Prairie, Comstock, Gull Prairie, Silver Creek, Gun Plains, Otsego, Allegan, Paw Paw, Grand and Genesee Prairies, so arranged that he could reach them all once in two weeks.

At Kalamazoo Mr. Robe preached at the house of George Patterson until late in the fall of 1834, when the school house was sufficiently built to be occupied for preaching. This house was located where later the Jewish synagogue stood and was used at that time for court-house, city hall and church, as well as for educational purposes. Later this building was removed to the corner of North and Church streets and was used as a dwelling. It was in this building that the first sacramental service was held in what is now the city of Kalamazoo. It was conducted by the Reverend James T. Robe, preacher in charge. In October 1835, Mr. Robe was ordained an elder and appointed to the Marion charge, Indiana-



polis district. At this session of the Annual Conference Mr. Robe reported 120 members at Kalamazoo and an offering of eight dollars for the superannuate members and their widows and children. This is the first recorded offering for that purpose from Kalamazoo.

In 1837 Mr. Robe was appointed to Brookville, Paoli district, Indiana. On December 25, 1837, James T. Robe was married to Euphemia W. McLaughlin, of Indianapolis, where her family had lived since an early date.

In 1838, Mr. Robe was appointed to the Fort Wayne charge, and at the next session of the Annual Conference he located, that is, he ceased to be a member of the Annual Conference, with a view of going as a missionary to Oregon. He was passionately interested in missionary work, but owing to the remonstrances of his wife's friends he finally gave it up.

The record of Mr. Robe's activities for the next few years is missing except for a reference to his work as pastor at Silver Creek, in Indiana. He was both a surveyor and a miller and may have spent some time in those occupations. It is stated by Dr. Pilcher that Mr. Robe took work at the session of the Michigan Annual Conference in Detroit September 14, 1853, and was appointed to Ganges, in Allegan County.





At the next session of the Annual Conference at Flint, September 5, 1855, Mr. Robe was appointed to Buchanan. At the session of the Annual Conference at Coldwater, October 1, 1856, he was appointed to the Sumnerville charge in Cass County, where he remained two years, 1856-8. During this time he conducted one of the greatest revivals ever held in Cass County. He had a Pauline passion for souls and wherever he went the fires of evangelical enthusiasm burned brightly. A camp meeting was held at Edwards Grove just south of the present site of Pokagon. Because of better water facilities Crystal Springs was selected as the site for the camp meetings in 1860. Mr. Robe was appointed to Schoolcraft in 1858 and remained until 1860. His last charge was Grand Rapids west, one year, 1860-61, after which he retired on account of failing health.

James T. Robe was a commanding figure physically. He wore a silk hat and carried a cane with a dignified manner. He was strong and rugged and more than six feet in height. He had strong convictions. At one time he was to raise a building and after the custom of the time invited the men of the region to come to the "raising". But Mr. Robe would invite no one who would demand liquor, and for that reason sent for help as far as twenty miles away. He travelled a new country and shared the experience of pioneers with





all the dangers and hardships.

Death came to the Reverend James T. Robe, January 31, 1888. The funeral was held in the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo and the following ministers participated in the service: D. F. Barnes, presiding elder; Levi Master, pastor of the church; E. T. Lumbar and Richard Pengelly. The bearers were M. J. Bigelow, Henry Wood, E. A. Carder, I. C. Pelgrim, Henry Bishop, O. F. Coleman.

On the fly leaf of a copy of Volume 2 of "Michigan Pioneer Collections", which was presented to Mr. Robe, is found the following:

"Presented to the Rev. James T. Robe with the kind regards of a few of your many friends, as containing a short history of your early arduous ministerial labors; the fruits of which we are happy to say are abundant evidence that your labor was not in vain".

The above statement was signed by:

Hezekiah G. Wells	Rodney Seymour
Henry Bishop	Eliza A. Seymour
F. W. Curtenius	J. M. Davis
O. F. Coleman	M. W. Roberts
E. J. Phelps	W. G. Dewing
George Patterson	

Mrs. James T. Robe lived only a short time after her husband passed away. Death came to her May 26, 1888, in Kalamazoo. She was well educated and had the character and spirit which eminently fitted her for the wife of a zealous, intrepid, Methodist minister and missionary of her time. She gave up a pleas-



ant home for the companionship of a minister who moved every year or two from parsonage to parsonage. This she did cheerfully and served faithfully in the charges to which they were sent. When the burdens were heavy and her husband's courage flagged she gave him strength and inspiration to go on. Three children remained at the time of her departure: Mrs. W. H. Smith of Indianapolis, Theodore M. Robe and Mrs. George Hall, of Kalamazoo. Mr. and Mrs. Robe were buried in Indianapolis.







Leo Carey Robinson



LEO CAREY ROBINSON

1893 - 1942

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Leo Carey Robinson was born in Delton, Barry county, Michigan, February 25, 1893, son of Carey Bissell Robinson, who was born on a farm near Meado, Macomb county, Michigan, and is deceased at the time of this writing in 1943. Leo's mother was Lettie Alena Lewis Robinson, who was born three miles from Tuscola, Michigan, and was married April 4, 1888, to Leo's father. They were also the parents of:

Dora May, who was born October 20, 1890 and died December 22, 1894;

Ralph Dale, who was born in Plainwell, Michigan, May 13, 1895, married (1) Helene Ysselldyke, later deceased, (2) Beatrice Castleton, who became the mother of Joyce, born June 6, 1925, and Suzanne, born January 3, 1929.

When Leo was two years old the family moved to Plainwell, Michigan, where they resided until 1897, when they moved to Dowagiac, Michigan, where Leo began going to school. In 1900, the family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Leo continued in school until he reached the eleventh grade and then went into the business of photography with his father who had begun the business a short time before. In



1908 Leo's father went into the business of manufacturing studio accessories and other furniture and his wife ran the studio for seven years.

In 1910, when Leo was seventeen years of age, he was sent to a school of photography at McMinnville, Tennessee, for one year, after which he returned to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and engaged in his chosen profession. His father went to Detroit and bought a studio and in 1920 moved his business to Pontiac, Michigan.

March 18, 1914, Leo Carey Robinson was married to Alta Minerva West, who was born in Plainwell, Michigan, June 27, 1893, the daughter of Charles West, who was born August 29, 1852, and died April 29, 1929, and Frances Nichols West, who was born November 16, 1860, and was married to Mr. West January 8, 1879. Leo's mother was born March 14, 1870.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Robinson began housekeeping in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they resided until 1921, when they moved to Madison, Wisconsin, and he had a studio there until May 1, 1923, when Kalamazoo, Michigan, became his place of business and his home. The family lived on the south side for some time and now reside at 1920 West Main street.





Until 1938, Mr. Robinson's studio was on West Main street, now West Michigan avenue, where the post office now stands. At that time he established and operated one of the most modern and complete studios in Southwestern Michigan, which is located on South Burdick street, where his family continues the business.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Carey Robinson became the parents of:

Chester Bissell, born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 2, 1915, was graduated from Central High School in Kalamazoo, married Hazel Schulke and went into business with his father;

Doris May, born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, January 30, 1917, was graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School, attended Western Michigan College of Education two years, spent one year in the Tobe-Coburn Fashion School, New York City, worked one year in Cincinnati, Ohio, one year in New York City and in July 1942 was given a position in Gilmore Brothers store in Kalamazoo in charge of display work;

Richard West, born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 3, 1919, was graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School, worked for a time in the studio with his father and then went into war work in Battle Creek, Michigan, - married Arlene Denaway and became the father of Richard Lee, born [redacted];

Leola Carroll, born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 17, 1921, deceased;

Jacque, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, [redacted], enlisted in the United States Navy





in July 1941, went to Great Lakes Training Station, shipped with the Yorktown and later with the Oglala;

Avis Muriel, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 10, 1926, is a Junior in High School;

Eileen Rae, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 16, 1928, and is in High School.

Mrs. Robinson's brothers and sisters are:

Jessie, born March 28, 1880, died in June, 1920;

Bessie, born February 23, 1882;

Guy, born January 9, 1887;

Fay, born January 7, 1889;

Macel, born January 8, 1891;

Winnifred, born May 12, 1895;

Beulah, born April 21, 1897;

Fred, born August 2, 1903.

Leo Carey Robinson was about five feet, eleven inches tall, of medium build, with blonde hair and a fair complexion. He was fair and honest in his business transactions and did his work with unusual care and skill. His work was always that of a painstaking artist.

At one time he belonged to the Lions Club and was a member of the Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge at the time of his death. He united with the Methodist Church early in life and he and Mrs.



Robinson transferred their memberships as they moved from one city to another. She was active in the women's societies and assisted her husband in the studio. Since her husband's death she and her family continue the business.

Leo Carey Robinson was active in his church relations. He was a member of the official board of the First Methodist Church and a regular attendant upon the services. He was affable, a good neighbor and a fine father. He took an interest in civic affairs and was one of Kalamazoo's highly regarded citizens.

Death came to Mr. Robinson suddenly by a heart attack at three o'clock in the morning of April 13, 1942. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend William C. Perdew and burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.



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Richard Burton Roop





R I C H A R D   B U R T O N   R O O P

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Flight Officer Richard Burton Roop was reported missing in action November 17, 1944, over Italy. He was on a radar ship which encountered flak and anti-aircraft fire. Six months later he was reported officially as dead as of May 1, 1945.

Birth and Education

He was born in Syracuse, Indiana, January 6, 1922, son of Raymond M. and Pauline Gresser Roop, of mixed ancestry.

He had a sister, Marilyn Ann, who married William E. Bennett and they reside at this time in 1946 in Houghton, Michigan.

Richard, known as "Dick" among his friends, was in the sixth grade in school when the family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he attended the Milwood School and was graduated from Central High School with the class of 1939.

Soon after he was graduated he went to Langley Field, Virginia, near Norfolk, to study aeronautical engineering research at the National Advisory Com-



mittee for Aeronautics and was there when he was inducted into the armed service of the United States in February, 1942.

He took his basic training at Chanute Field, Illinois. He was trained in radar in Florida, and at Salina, California, and overseas.

He went overseas in September 1944 and was assigned to a night fighter squadron serving in Italy engaged in the protection of Allied convoys, shipping and the interception and destruction of enemy aircraft and installations.

#### Personal Characteristics

Dick was six feet one inch tall, slender in figure, and had dark hair and brown eyes - a very prepossessing young man.

His hobby was airplanes. He made model planes, competed in the junior air shows and won prizes. From the time he could use a pot of glue to fasten two sticks together this was Dick's life. He liked to fly and frequently got rides with well known business men.

Another of his ambitions was to organize and conduct his own orchestra. He was intensely interested in music and dancing and rhythm and co-ordination were highly developed in his make-up.

He attended the Church School and Public



After the revolution and the time when he was

inducted into the armed forces of the United

States in February, 1942.

He then was sent to training at Camp Davis,

Illinois. He was assigned to work in the field, and

at various times, California, and overseas.

He went overseas in September 1942 and was

assigned to a night flight squadron serving in

Italy and was in the production of Allied aircraft,

shipping and the inspection and distribution of

weapons, aircraft and materiel.

#### Personal Description

He was six feet one inch tall, weighed in

weight, and had dark hair and brown eyes - a very

pleasant, friendly man.

His body was slender. He was right

handed, completed in the lower left hand and was

powerful. From the time he could use a set of eyes

he passed the vision inspection test of the military.

He liked to fly and frequently was taken with

well known airplane men.

Whether of his condition was so serious and

caused the man's death. He was intensely

interested in sports and dancing and frequently

participated in these activities in his spare time.

He attended the Church School and Public

Worship at The First Methodist Church in Kalamazoo. He was industrious, honest, fair and courteous, and showed good sportsmanship in all situations.

He was ambitious and applied his brilliant mind to his studies and won high marks. He was popular with young and old and was especially attentive to his aged grandmother, who dearly loved him.

One more of Kalamazoo's fine sons made the greatest sacrifice a man can make and paid the highest price for preserving liberty for the people who live in these United States.







Marie Root

## M A R I E   R O O T.

Marie Root was born in Kalamazoo, on October 28, 1890, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred N. Root. To this family were born two other children, a sister, Mrs. D. L. Porter of Lansing, who died in 1919 and a brother Newton Root residing in Kalamazoo. The father died in 1925 and the mother passed away in 1933.

Miss Root was first educated in the Public schools of Kalamazoo and then entered Western State Teachers College where she received a High School Life certificate. In 1914 she was graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. For one year following she taught in the grades of the Ironwood schools after which she returned to Kalamazoo where she taught from 1915 to 1918 in the Junior High school. The following year she spent in graduate work at Teachers College Columbia University.

At the request of her father, the late Fred N. Root of this city she joined him in the business of the Root Spring Scraper Co., following her return from New York, and she succeeded him as





president and general manager of the company at the time of his death. She gained wide spread reputation as the only woman in the world engaged in the manufacture of road scrapers and snow plows. The business in which Miss Root was engaged was formed in 1900 to manufacture snow plows for street cars and horse-drawn road scrapers. In 1920 the first truck scraper was introduced to the country and the Root Spring Scraper Company produced the first hydraulic scrapers and snow plows.

#### HER INTERESTS MANY

In 1923 Marie Root toured Europe with an aunt, Anna M. Boyle, and later she visited Alaska in company with her mother, Mrs. Josephine M. Root. Miss Root was a member of the First Presbyterian church, the Altrusa Club, the Michigan Alumnae, the Sororsis Society at the University of Michigan, and was a life member of the Women's League. She also was a life member of the United States Good Road Association and belonged to the American Road Builders Association.

Miss Root was public spirited and evidenced keen interest in business, civic, and social affairs of the community. She gave generously of her time and efforts in community enterprises. After an illness of three and one-half years she died at her





home, 1713 Hillshire Drive, on Tuesday afternoon, October 1, 1935 at 1:10 p. m. Services were conducted on Thursday afternoon, October 3, at her residence by the Rev. John Wirt Dunning, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Burial was made in Riverside cemetery.

It was Miss Root's request that her friends omit flowers, sending instead contributions of cash to be received by Miss Flora Roberts at the public library for use in the purchase of books and periodicals for patients at Fairmount hospital, where because it is a contagious disease hospital, the public library is unable to provide hospital service. Miss Root's request in this matter was typical of her sympathetic interest in others.

Dr. John Wirt Dunning, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, of which Miss Root was an active member, wrote as follows:

"We think of Marie Root as a vital personality, radiant with the grace of friendship, beautiful in the riches of character. One could not think of her home as a sick room nor her passing as in any sense funereal. Hers was a life, though young in years, of rich spiritual maturity. Living these past few years in what Stevenson calls, "The Land Of Counterpane", her mind and hand have ever been busy in the constructive tasks of life. The issues of life out of her heart have enabled her to render as great a service, as though she had walked the free ways of earth. Her sick-room has been a shrine. She faced whatever life brought with Christian





poise. She knew the great peace they have who love the Lord. The highest beauty is beauty of character and sometimes it is the chiseling of pain that completes it. We have witnessed here the wonder of a spirit that could "welcome each rebuff that turns earth's smoothness rough", and could put to sweet uses life's adversities.

"All this was born of two attitudes of life that were her habitual state. She thought of life in terms of usefulness, a time to be filled with little nameless unremembered acts of love. In the highest sense she was a philanthropist. She loved her fellow men. But the outward service of her life, was that of an inward heart resting on the Great Love. Her gateways of soul were wide open to the inflow of God. Her living was a prayer, even as it was a stewardship. She was great in Christlikeness.

"We would expect for her a beautiful ending, and such she had. Calmly and trustfully facing the shadows, she was not troubled. So she passed in beauty and in grace to the Other Room in our Father's House where love is perfect and where life is full."

Beautiful life with task well done.  
Beautiful soul with race well run.  
Beautiful rest at the set of sun.







Albert Lavern Rose



A L B E R T   L A V E R N   R O S E

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Albert Lavern Rose, a Christian gentleman and a life long member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was born of Christian parents November 28, 1866, in the city of Saginaw, Michigan.

His paternal grandfather came from England when the father of Albert was but seven years old. The trip was made in a sailing vessel and took seven weeks. It was a stormy passage and the passengers were locked below several times as the captain expected shipwreck.

The maternal grandparents of A. L. Rose came by ox team from Massachusetts to Pontiac when Michigan was but a forest and Detroit only a trading post. His maternal grandfather Francis hewed the trees for a cabin and built with meager tools the house and furnishings, located about two miles from the heart of the city, where the father and mother of Albert L. Rose were married May 30, 1865, under a bower of flowering apple trees, and then went to Flint, Michigan, to live, and later to Saginaw, Michigan, where Albert was born.

Albert L. Rose grew up in Saginaw and graduated from the public high school. He then went to Business College and graduated as an accountant, after which he



accepted a position as bookkeeper with the firm of Heavenrich Brothers of Saginaw.

In 1886, he married Mamie D. Rogers and became the father of four children: Leigh LaVern, husband of Fay Farr and father of Maxwell LaVern, Marie Esther, Dorothy Lee and Benjamin, resides in Los Angeles, California; Esther Rogers, wife of John Peatling, mother of John Howard, born December 15, 1925, resides in Kalamazoo; Helen Elizabeth, wife of Arthur Day, mother of Alice Jean, born [REDACTED], resides in Los Angeles, California; Donald Francis, husband of Helen Ehrich, father of Donald Ehrich, resides in Kalamazoo.

In 1893, Mr. Albert Rose and family moved to Cheboygan, Michigan, where he had charge of Swift and Company's office and business for a number of years.

In 1910, the family moved to Kalamazoo to look after the interests of Swift and Company in this city and the surrounding towns.

Mr. Rose was a Mason and a member of the Kiwanis club, but never let lodge work interfere with his church life.

After the World War he went into the commission business for himself and remained in that business until his death, which occurred in Los Angeles, California, August 1, 1930. He had gone to Los Angeles





the preceding February. He was greatly beloved by his wife and children and returned their love in full measure. Burial was in the Englewood cemetery, Los Angeles.

The above was written December 19, 1936.







L. S. Robinson —

Soddie Rosenbaum

G O D D I E   R O S E N B A U M.

Goddie Rosenbaum was born in Kalamazoo on Portage Street, near Old Borgess Hospital, where the family lived for years. His parents were Samuel and Henrietta Rosenbaum. The father was a pioneer merchant, came to Kalamazoo in 1857 and secured employment as a clerk in one of the down-town stores. Later the father went into business for himself on what was then Main Street. The present Company was started in 1867. The father, President of the concern died in January, 1903 and the Mother's death occurred in July, 1921.

Goddie attended the public schools of Kalamazoo until old enough to enter the employ of his father and grew up with the business.

Mr. Rosenbaum was married in September, 1893 to Miss Maud Powers, of Kalamazoo. Two children came to the home, Samuel, who resides in Kalamazoo and Mrs. Anita R. Judson. His brothers are Louis and Edwin, who held the offices of President and Vice-President respectively of the Kalamazoo Pant Company, Menz Rosenbaum of Chicago. His sisters are Mrs. Ludwig Rosenbaum, Kalamazoo and Mrs. Blanch Rosenberg, Hanover, Germany. Robert Edwards Judson is a grandson.

SELDOM ABSENT FROM DESK





Mr. Rosenbaum was one of Kalamazoo's best known citizens. He was an indefatigable worker in whatever was undertaken by him, not alone in the Company with which he had been affiliated since he was fifteen years of age, but in the Civic and social positions he had occupied. This quality was only exceeded by his intense loyalty to his friends.

When the Kalamazoo Pant Company, as the concern is best known to people of Kalamazoo, was incorporated in 1902, by Samuel Rosenbaum and his three sons, Louis, Edward S., and Goddie, the latter was made treasurer, an office he held until the time of his death. During the thirty years intervening he was seldom absent from his desk and had been a big factor in the development of the concern which experienced a remarkable growth.

#### ON SAFETY COMMISSION

For six years Mr. Rosenbaum was a member of the Police and Fire Commissions of the city of Kalamazoo. When the appointment to that body was first suggested to him by the late Frank H. Milham in 1907 he declined with the excuse that he was too busy with his own affairs. Later he relented and received similar appointments under the administration of Charles H. Farrell, Charles B. Hays and A. B. Connable.

While serving on the Commission he spent many





evenings at the Police and Fire Stations mingling with the men of the two departments and in that manner getting first hand knowledge of what was needed to build up the organizations to the highest degree of efficiency. He became the friend and confident of every police officer and fireman he encountered and was ready to go to the front for them in encounters with the City Councils when necessary. It was during the time that Mr. Rosenbaum was a member of the Commission that the present police station was built and that Charles Russell received his appointment as fire Chief.

Sheriff Charles W. Struble tells the following regarding Mr. Rosenbaum's frequent visits to Police Headquarters: Mr. Rosenbaum spent much time at Police Headquarters, and was always putting over a good joke on some member of the department. I recall one night when he came to the station with his face blacked and wearing patched and ragged clothes. He applied for a "flop" for the night, and was locked up, much to his displeasure. When released, ten minutes later, he remarked, "I ought to have known better than to try to pull that." This incident is a sample of his jovial disposition, which endeared him to the entire department.

PROMINENT IN ELKS LODGE



On February 17, 1897 Mr. Rosenbaum became a member of the Kalamazoo Lodge of Elks. During the thirty-five years he was a member he gave as much time as any member to the upbuilding of that organization. He and his brother Louis did much to keep the lodge alive during its early days.

#### INTERESTED IN SPORTS

Mr. Rosenbaum was keenly interested in bowling. He had served as President of the Michigan Elks Association and a director of the International Bowling Association.

#### BACKED BASEBALL CLUB

When Kalamazoo was represented in the old Southern Michigan Baseball League, Mr. Rosenbaum, J. W. Ryder, Charles A. Blaney and Edgar R. Raseman were the backers of the team. The Club lost money but never once did the enthusiasm of Mr. Rosembaum and his associates dwindle. They put Victory on the diamond ahead of personal gain and pocketed a loss each season without complaint.

Mr. Rosenbaum for several years was at the head of the Kalamazoo Amusement Company which operated the Fuller, Orpheum and Elite Theaters at the time. He was also one of the builders of the Empress Theater in Grand Rapids. He took a keen interest in all theatrical matters.





Goddie Rosenbaum was also a director of the Home Savings Bank. He also belonged to the Masons, was a Shriner, a member of the Rotary Club and the Gull Lake Country Club. In all these organizations he took a keen interest.

#### FRIEND OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Rosenbaum was a true friend of his employees. They came to him with their troubles and he did his best to help them.

His death came suddenly at his home 305 West Vine Street at 1:30 a. m. Friday, June 10, 1932, from a heart attack. He was 62 years of age.

Funeral service was held at the Harrington Chapel, West South Street, Sunday, June 12. Rabbi Philip Waterman of Grand Rapids conducted the service. Burial was in the Jewish Mountain Home Cemetery.

(The above was written in 1935)







Albert H. Rathemel





Mrs. Albert H. Rothermal

## A L B E R T   H .   R O T H E R M E L

Albert H. Rothermel was born October 4, 1848 in Little Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Hoffman Rothermel. He was educated at Freeburg Academy, Freeburg, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, where he had instruction from an exceptionally fine teacher and cultured gentleman to whom Mr. Rothermel pays his highest respects and whom he credits with contributing very much to his life.

Mr. Rothermel was married November 13, 1872, to Susie Brewer, of Dayton, Michigan. She lived but ten months and presented a daughter. Mrs. Rothermel died September 26, 1873. The daughter, Miss Susie May Rothermel, grew to womanhood and entered the employ of the Wisconsin Railway, Light and Power Co., at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where she was Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Winnebago Traction Co., which was purchased by the Wisconsin Securities Company. She went to Winona in 1911, and was active in the affairs of the Wisconsin Securities Company. She passed away January 27, 1923, and burial was made in Kalamazoo.

On June 25, 1878, Mr. Rothermel was married to Alma Staley of Cumberland, Indiana. To this union





two sons were born. One son, born July 25, 1880, died when six weeks old. Royden a. Rothermel, of London, England, proprietor of Rothermel House, Canterbury Road, London, the largest importer of radio and electrical appliances in Great Britain. Mrs. Alma Staley Rothermel died March 19, 1934.

The name Rothermel is derived from a German name meaning "red sleeve" because in some battle an original ancestor came out with a bloody arm and some one pointed him out as Rothermel or "red sleeve."

Albert H. Rothermel arrived in Bertrand township March 20, 1868; went to Dayton, Michigan, 1870 and 1871. He taught the Rough school in 1869 and 1870; joined the Buchanan Masonic lodge in 1871 and the Odd Fellow lodge in 1872, with the intention of organizing an Odd Fellow lodge in Dayton. Several met in a room over his drug store in Dayton and organized. The charter members were: John Young, E. W. Sanders, Adam Kern, Elisha Allen and Albert H. Rothermel. There the lodge held its meetings until Mr. Rothermel left Dayton in 1880.

Following his teaching experience he engaged in business in a combination drug and grocery store in Dayton. Calomel and quinine were main items in stock, because if you did not have the "shakes" in Dayton, you were out of style. At that time ague





was common everywhere but it was expecially prevalent at Dayton on account of the lake and marshes. The victims then connected it with marshes and dampness but they did not dream that the actual cause was the mosquitoes which bred in the marshes in millions. Mr. Rothermel was postmaster in Dayton from 1873 to 1880. He also bought wood for the wood-burning engines on the Michigan Central. Later he sold out his business and taught in the Dayton schools again. Dayton was a great trading center then because the railway ran through the bottom of a ravine and the farmers could drive their loads of wheat on a platform and dump them down in the cars, instead of having the grain hoisted in an elevator.

Mr. Rothermel left Dayton in 1880 and came to Kalamazoo where he has made his home at 415 South Rose Street, traveling 40 years as a wholesale grocery salesman for a Chicago house.





Rev. & Mrs. John A. Rottier



Rev & Mrs John A. Rottier



J O H N   A D R I A N   R O T T I E R

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The home of Adrian and Adriana Kole Rottier in Goes, Zeeland, The Netherlands, was an unusually happy one with children to work and play and make life pleasant for hard working parents. In addition to this it was a Christian home, the parents being devout church people, bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The subject of this story is John Adrian, the oldest of the four children who were born in Holland. He was born on a farm March 28, 1877. When he was nearly six years of age, the family left The Netherlands and came to Fremont, Michigan, where his uncle Martin had already established his residence.

Five more children came to bless the Rottier home in Fremont, making nine in all. The names of these brothers and sisters were Cornelia, Nellie, Adrian, Martin, Clara, Mary, Josie and Anna.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Rottier resided in Fremont from the time of their arrival until their death, except for two years when they made Grand Rapids, Michigan, their home. Adrian Rottier passed away about



1936 and his wife Adriana died two years later.

John began going to school when he was nine years of age, there being no law at that time to compel children six years of age and over to attend school. As railway tracks had to be crossed to reach the school, this wise mother kept John at home until he was old enough to cross safely. However, his education was not neglected for John was taught by his mother to read, using the Bible for a text book. When John entered school he could speak no English and he later marvelled how the teacher ever understood him. He learned rapidly and in "three or four months," he recalled, he "spoke very well." He attended school for a few years and then dropped out to work, but re-entered when a law was passed requiring attendance at school until sixteen years of age.

Following his sixteenth birth-day John went to work for a while in a furniture factory and then found employment elsewhere, mostly on farms.

When seventeen years of age the Spirit of God moved the young heart of this lad to make a confession of faith in the Fremont Christian Reformed Church, the pastor being the Reverend H. Van Der Werp. Two years of service in the church brought to this young





man the urge to enter the ministry, but he had no funds for training. At this time, however, there was a young ministerial student being supported by the Classis and Mr. Van Der Werp advised John to wait until that young man had completed his training when funds would probably be made available to support another student.

When John was about twenty-three years of age the churches of that Classis were notified that the support of another student would be undertaken. Several young men applied but the ministers chose John Adrian Rottier, partly because of his reputation, but also because he had worked hard and saved some money to help himself. That fall he entered Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids. He took the required five year preparatory course and one year in theology, after which he was given a license to preach in June 1906, it being understood that he would finish his training.

When he was twenty-nine years of age, on August 18, 1906, he was married to Miss Maggie Muller, who was born in Nieuwhoeven, The Netherlands, November 22, 1882, daughter of Louis and Frances Rienerworf Muller, the family coming to Grand Rapids, Michigan, when Maggie was five years old.

and the age of the child, but he had no  
 means for training. He was poor, however, there  
 was a good schoolmaster who was willing to  
 take the child and he was very kind to him.  
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When he was about three years of age  
 he was taken to the school and he was  
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John and Maggie Rottier bravely started married life with little funds, trusting in hard work and Divine help for food and shelter. John was asked as a supply pastor to serve in various churches on Sundays and thus their faith was confirmed.

Six boys and five girls came to bless this home and grow to young manhood and womanhood, a credit to their parents, an honor to their country and valued members of the communities in which they reside. The oldest, Adrian, was born in Grand Rapids, June 20, 1907; Louis came the following year, June 29, 1908. That year John Adrian was graduated from the seminary and was made pastor at Atwood, near Traverse City, Michigan. For three years he greatly blessed that church with his ministry. During this time two sons arrived, John on June 15, 1909, and Francis on February 6, 1911.

Mr. Rottier's next call was to the Christian Reformed Church in Muskegon Heights, where he served nearly six years, and a son and two daughters were added to the family, namely, Ralph, born March 11, 1913, Ada, January 10, 1914, and Margaret, December 12, 1915.

In 1917, Mr. Rottier received a call to the pastorate of a church in North Blendon, near Grand



Rapids, where another son and daughter came into their home, Richard, October 13, 1917, and Wilma, March 8, 1919.

Beaver Dam was the next field of service for this pastor and while there two daughters joined this happy family, Catherine, July 5, 1920, and Carol, September 16, 1923.

This minister was next called to Highland, Indiana about 1925, where he served until 1931, when he suffered a severe nervous break down and took the Emeritus relation, moving to Lansing, Illinois, and lived there until the children began coming to Kalamazoo, Michigan, to attend school, staying with their aunt, Mrs. E. L. Schafer. In 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Rottier moved to Kalamazoo to give their children the advantages of a college town which they craved, residing at 113 Wilrod Place.

Eventually, marriages took place among the children. Adrian married Marian Cone and has a daughter, Sharon, and resides in Seymour, Indiana. Louis married Bertha Lolkema and they are the parents of John and Peter and reside in Highland, Indiana. John married Eleanore Poelstra and has two children, Gloria and Joyce and resides in Kalamazoo. Francis married Beatrice Terpstra, has one child, Frank, and





lives in Lansing, Illinois. Ralph married Sopha Porter, has two children, Joan and Jacqueline and resides near Griffith, Indiana. Ada married Richard Eenigenberg and resides in Fremont, Michigan. Margaret was united in marriage with Kenneth Scripps and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Richard is an engineer in Schnectady, New York. Wilma works in the business office of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Kalamazoo. Catherine married Richard White and resides in Scotia, New York, and Carol, the youngest of the eleven sons and daughters, plans to enter Calvin College, Grand Rapids, in September 1942.

Mr. Rottier is a Republican. He now regrets that he did not play more and work less. He once thought time too precious to spend in recreation, but realizes now that he might not have broken in health had he taken time for recreation.

His services will long be remembered in the communities where he was a pastor for the zeal he brought to his work, for his care of the church property, remodeling some parsonages, building some new ones and erecting new church buildings.

He was faithful to every trust, caring for the aged and ill, teaching the young and leading the





adults in their work for the church. He became widely known as a teacher of the Bible and the doctrines of the Christian Reformed Church and was in demand because of his splendid work in his church schools.

In all his work he was ably assisted by his capable wife whose abiding interest, in addition to the care of her family, was in the church. Asked how she managed to raise eleven fine children, she simply replied, "They helped each other and they helped me." But one can see in the face of this devoted wife and mother that the "eternal verities of God" are hers. She "trusts where she cannot see" and in caring for the needs of her invalid husband she shows great patience and love.

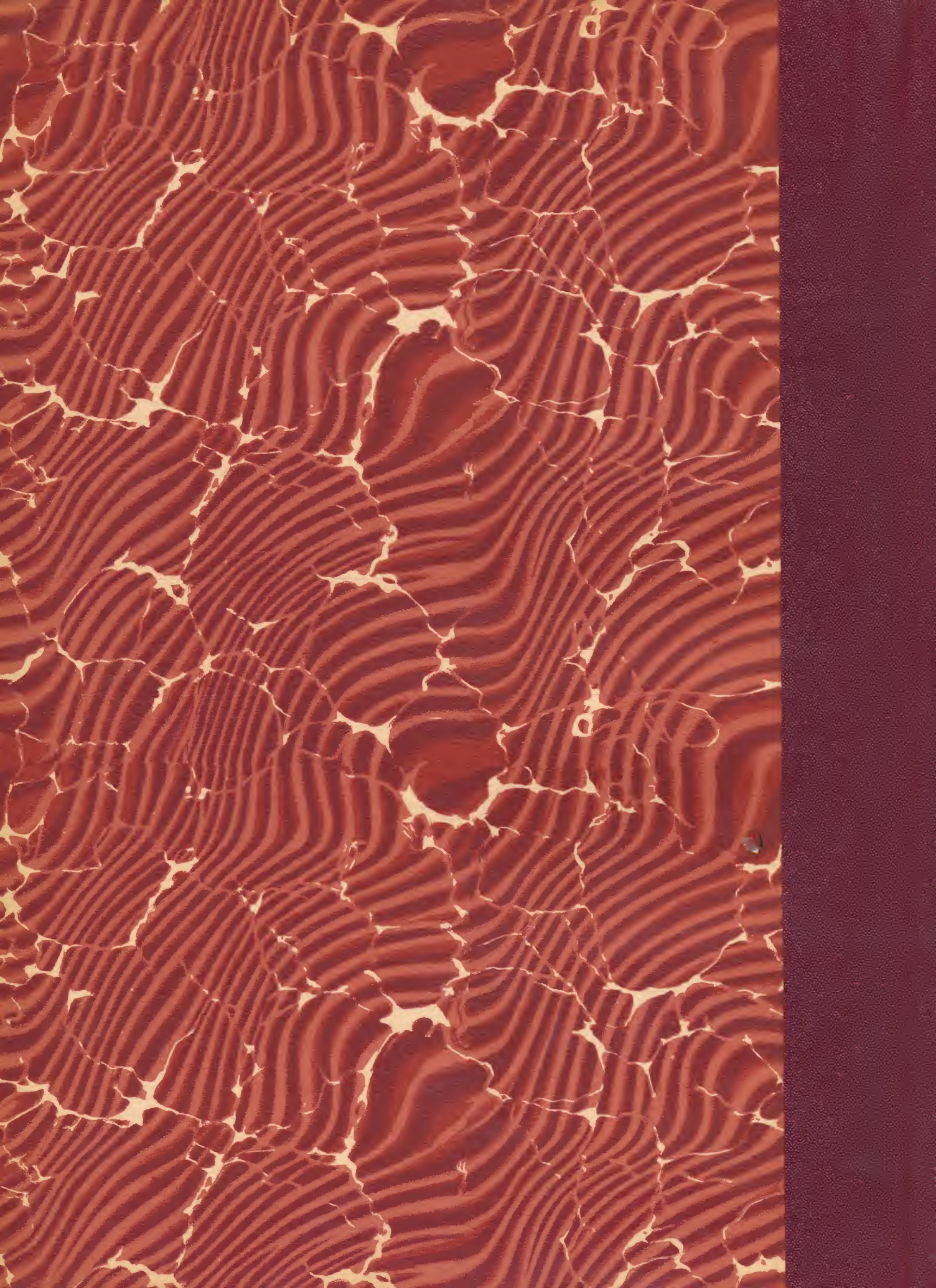
John Adrian Rottier may be laid aside for a time but his work goes on in the hearts of the people whom he served. The foregoing was written in 1942.

Death came to Mr. Rottier at 3:45 A. M., Saturday, August 8, 1942. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend John Masselink, Th. D., and burial was in Riverside cemetery.













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